# The Builder

VOLUME FOR 1854.

IN the opening note of our last volume we mentioned the inauguration of the Dublin Industrial Exhibition and of the Crystal Palace at Sydenham, for the opening of which May had been named in both cases, as likely to be amongst the most important and pregnant events of the year; but suggested at the same time that the completion of the latter building in time was scarcely possible. The Dublin Exhibition was opened and is closed. It was a great success in many points of view, and will bring advantage to Ireland. It has taught many lessons; has stimulated energies, has awakened minds; and by showing the working-man what may be done by patience and rightly-directed labour, and how many men like himself have fought their way to honour and reward, has enabled him to hope,—and hope is the parent of exertion. The Dublin Exhibition, then, as we have said, is a fact accomplished: it has flowered, and scattered its good seed widely. But the accomplishment of the second event is left for the new-come year; and it appeared to us that we could not select a better subject for the illustration of our opening number in 1854, than the first completed section of the Sydenham building,—the POMPEIAN COURT,—of which very successful production we now give an engraving.* In the first instance it was proposed that this should simply be a refreshment court decorated in Pompeian style, not a complete reproduction. As the arrangements were proceeded with, the idea of refreshments there was given up; and the endeavour has been made to produce a perfect type of domestic habitation,—atrium, tablinum, peristyle, triclinium, and cubicula; the floors paved with mosaics, the walls covered with paintings.

And here at starting let us correct a mistake which our esteemed contemporary, the *Art Journal*, and some other papers have fallen into, touching the production of this court. It was designed and has been carried out by Mr. Digby Wyatt, and not, as stated, by Signor Abbate: the latter gentleman is an artist, apparently an able one, and to him is strictly due the whole merit of the *painted decorations* of the Pompeian house, but nothing more. He is not an architect, and has never been one: his knowledge of every detail connected with Pompeii is very great, and he has doubtless given the full benefit of his judgment in the architecture, as the architect has afforded him whatever advice he could beneficially offer throughout his work. We have seen the original sketch made by Mr. Wyatt at Naples, which shows that the idea was fully conceived before even the assistance of Sig. Abbate was positively engaged. The size of every room was arranged at Naples; and then, with Sig. Abbate, the various paintings to be reproduced on every wall were selected, and the latter gentleman remained there to make his tracings and cartoons, which he brought complete to this country. Before his return to England the working drawings had been made, and the works considerably advanced. Owing to the backward state of the building it was some months after his arrival before he could begin his work, and much of that time was spent in completing the cartoons, arranging them to suit some variations which had been made in studying out the details and in trying experiments as to media and pigments. The moment the walls were in a fit state to begin upon, proper ornamental painters were supplied him, for the most part by Mr. Bibra, and Sig. Abbate began his work. Mr. W. A. Parris, the son of Mr. E. T. Parris (who will hereafter, we suppose, be called St. Paul's Parris), has throughout acted as his deputy, assisting him in setting out the decorations and mixing all the tints. Mr. Thomas Hayes has been Mr. Wyatt's deputy as superintendent of the architectural arrangements. Let us add that Mr. Falkener has aided with some valuable hints, and that most of the ornamental portions have been modelled by Signor Monti.

See page 7.

There is no jealousy between the architect and painter: each knows to what the other is entitled; but on the principle we maintain of giving every man his due, we have thought it right to make their respective positions clear, giving Mr. Wyatt his rights; and having done so, we heartily congratulate them both on the result of their joint labours in this the first completed portion of what we thoroughly believe will be the most instructive, extraordinary, and beneficial work of its kind that the world has ever seen.

Our engraving represents the view looking across the atrium into the peristyle. Those of our readers who have not visited the disentombed city, nor read Sir William Gell's book, have lingered over Bulwer's magical "Last Days of Pompeii," and know what was the general arrangement of a first-class Pompeian house, and they will find few departures from this at Sydenham. Let us indicate briefly the principal divisions. Entering by the narrow *prothyrium*, or vestibule, on either side of which is a slave's room (and you may do so without fear of the dog, though the mosaic floor will of course bear the inscription *Cave Canem*), you find yourself in the *atrium*, or hall, where the clients and visitors were received. The centre of the hall is uncovered, and in the pavement beneath the *compluvium*, or roof opening, is the *impluvium*, with fountain, statue, and well at the side. Around three sides of the *atrium* are *cubicula*, or chambers; the recess, right and left (some chairs and a table mark it in our view), is an *ala*, or business-room, and near one of these, namely, that on the right, may be seen the money-chest of the master of the house. Immediately opposite the entrance, and in the centre of our view, is the *tablinum*, or drawing-room, so to speak. This opens on the other side to an oblong colonnade called the *peristyle*, the centre of which is laid out as a small garden. A curtain separates the *tablinum* from the *peristyle*. On each side of the *tablinum*, separated from it by a passage leading from the *atrium*, is a *triclinium*, or dining-room, with the door from the *peristyle*; and against the sides of the *peristyle* are a summer dining-room, the *æcus*, a room for taking wine and desert in, the bath, and the *culina*, or kitchen, not forgetting a *porta postica*, or back door for the servants, though followers were not allowed. The *peristyle* is supposed to be *dipluviatum*, or one from which the water is conducted to the outside of the house, as was usually the case when the *peristyle* was small. From the capitals of the columns of the *peristyle* hang garlands of flowers. The *atrium* and its apartments up to the line of the *tablinum* were public for clients and visitors: the portion beyond that was used only by the family and intimate friends. The *lararium*, or altar, will be seen at the back of the *peristyle*, on the left hand side.

The *atrium* and *tablinum* will be paved with tesselated pavement now making by Minton. The roof-tiles were made by Blashfield. The colours have been supplied by Robinson, of Long-acre, and their quality does him credit. The *atrium*, we should have said, is Tuscan. On the pilasters at each side of the entrance, are placed the celebrated "figured capitals," and the doorway is a modification of that of the house of Pansa. The whole house is supposed to occupy an entire island, too, as that of Pansa does. In judging of the general design, several points should be borne in mind,—the difficulties presented by the position of the iron columns and girders, which have led to much complicated construction,—the necessity for keeping every opening large, not only for the admission of light everywhere, but to allow free ingress and egress. Hence, in one or two instances, strict precedent was obliged to be departed from; but, with the exception of such necessary variations, every feature has been moulded in the closest imitation of features actually existing.

The effect, when quite completed, will be charming. Even as it is, look into the *triclinium*, and you may see, with the mind's eye, the magnificent Glaucus at a repast with his friends. He has just thrown his costly ring into a crystal cup, to enhance the value of the gift, and presented it to the profligate Clodius, who has risen from his elbow to drink "the beautiful Ione." Pansa, the dandy Lepidus, and the caustic Sallust, are present, and if you listen, you may hear Nydia, in the *atrium*, singing:—

> "Buy my flowers—O buy, I pray!
> The blind girl comes from afar:
> If the earth be as fair as I hear them say,
> These flowers her children are!
> Do they her beauty keep?
> They are fresh from her lap, I know;
> For I caught them fast asleep
> In her arms an hour ago."

With such speculations, and the ideas which the place induces, we might fill a page, but we must close our notice, simply saying of the paintings for the present that they are, for the most part, exact copies of existing decorations, are exceedingly well executed, and make a much more harmonious whole than would be supposed from a verbal description of the colours used.*

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We have offered no greetings to our visitors on the opening of the year, made no promises of increased exertions to maintain and improve the character of the journal,—they will, we hope, believe that we mean both. To us, as to every one, the New Year has suggested thoughts, and though they do not relate to bricks and mortar, or even to Pompeian decorations, we are tempted

* A paper by the artist, on the Decorative Painting of Pompeii, with reference to this work, will be found in our last volume, p. 242.

to jot them down for the consideration of our readers, pleading the license of the season, and the weakness we acknowledged last week, as an excuse, if it be needed:—

THE EVE OF '54.

New Year! who thus floats coldly in,
What hold'st thou 'neath thy wing?
Who may foretell to Man and State
The change, the doom, you bring?

The church-bells clang to welcome thee,
In country and through street;
And men and maids wait anxiously,
Thy coming-in to greet.

A mystery is about you, Year!
Of solemn, gravest cast,
Which makes you, younger though thou art,
More mighty than the Past.

Ten thousand lives, ten thousand hopes,
Beneath each pinion lie;
'Till one by one the feathers drop,
As swiftly forth you fly.

Swiftly and sure,—no pause you'll make,
But drag us on with thee;
Relentless and inscrutable,—
Forward the course must be.

Forward the course must be, 'tis true,
We stop not if we would;
But we ourselves may *choose the goal*;
In every ill find good.

So clang the bells, and welcome in,
With joy, the coming Year:
We trust that Love which rules the World,
And Hope has conquered Fear.

GEO. GODWIN.

## ANCIENT DOORWAY, KILLESHIN CHURCH, QUEEN'S COUNTY.

IRISH ANTIQUITIES.

THE above is an attempt to restore a most interesting and beautiful doorway belonging to the ruins of the ancient church of Killeshin, Queen's County, Ireland, and situated about two miles from the town of Carlow. It is to be regretted that the original is greatly defaced, not so much, it is said, by the natural decay of time, as through the wantonness and vandalism of the ignorant. Mr. Wakeman in his work ("Handbook of Irish Antiquities"), makes mention of this doorway, and illustrates it by two perspective views of its capitals. Dr. Petrie does not seem to notice it in his exquisite work "On the Round Towers of Ireland," but gives many views of doorways and chancel arches, evidently contemporaneous with this, whose construction he assigns to the *eighth* century, and repudiates, I think with justice, the common notion of this style being Norman, and is of opinion it was introduced directly from the East, undergoing changes which adapted it to the peculiar genius of the people, and thus gaining a distinctive character, which entitles it to be called *Irish* Architecture, as much so as that of any other national architecture being called after the nation of its invention or improvement. The principal distinguishing feature of this style is to be seen in the graceful and peculiar tracery of its capitals, which is formed by the interlacing of the hair of the masks placed at the angles, typical, it is said, of eternity. All the ornamentation is in low relief, or *Inciso*, a great portion being merely engraved: a legend runs round the abacus, most likely a scriptural text, but now illegible: a high-pitched canopy stands over this doorway, and serves in a great measure to protect it from the weather.

RICHARD JOHNSTON.

WICKE'S SPIRES AND TOWERS.—It is but right we should supply an omission in our notice of this work last week, which may lead to an erroneous impression of its practical utility. The view of St. James's, Louth, which we presented to our readers, was *reduced* from Mr. Wicke's plate by about *one-half*, in order to bring it within the limits of our page; and by this means (in addition to the loss of the softness and beauty in wood-engraving which lithography possesses) the rich elaboration of detail could not be expressed as it is in this, and indeed all the plates of the work itself.

## A VISIT TO THE ISLE OF DOGS.

THE WORKS OF MESSRS W. CUBITT AND CO.

"Where could I wish myself now?
In the Isle of Dogs, so I might 'scape scratching."
*Beaumont and Fletcher.*

THE curious inquirer into the topography of the British metropolis must have observed that the course of the Thames is in several places distinguished by those sharp and sudden curvatures known in the Saxon language as *reaches*, which add much to the picturesque beauty of the river, and serve the purpose of retarding the velocity of its currents. The most remarkable of these fluvial phenomena is undoubtedly the magnificent curve in the form of a horse-shoe, which commences at Limehouse, sweeps round by the Greenland and Deptford dockyards, passes the verdant shores of Greenwich, and finally terminates at a point seven miles from London-bridge, where the basin of the West-India Docks communicates with the river at Blackwall. Within the boundaries of this horse-shoe curve lies embosomed the greater part of a tract of low marshy land,—in the parish of All Saints, Poplar, in the hundred of Ossulston, in the parliamentary division of the Tower Hamlets, in the county of Middlesex, which is known by the singular denomination of the "Isle of Dogs." Its claim to be ranked as an island is indisputable, although nature only intended it to be a peninsula; for it is bounded on three sides by the natural waters of the river; and on the fourth side by the artificial water of the City Canal, which joins the two opposite shores of Limehouse and Blackwall. It is scarcely necessary to add that the island measures about five miles in circumference, which is also known as Stepney-marsh and Millwall. It has been recovered from the Thames by means of embankments, the origin of which has been referred to the Roman era; but at any rate they were well known to the compilers of the Doomsday-book. Finally, the island, according to one account, derives its name from being the depôt of the spaniels and greyhounds of Edward III.; and to another from the great number of dead dogs which, having been drowned in the river, have had their bones deposited on the slope of its embankments.

Half a century ago this island was not only absolutely destitute of the great manufacturing establishments which now belong to it, but it was almost entirely without inhabitants. The only points of interest it possessed were the ruins of an ancient chapel, whose origin was shrouded in mystery, and its singularly rich pasture-land, which was celebrated for curing horses and cattle of distemper. Even yet, if we keep its factories out of sight, it is a place of no interest whatsoever to the compiler of pictorial hand-books. A very enthusiastic Presbyterian clergyman, who has lately published a history of the island, tries hard to get hold of some feature in the subject upon which to expend the exuberance of his poetical imagery. But it is of no use; the case is hopeless. He can only rest content with a song of lamentation. "We have no lofty mountains or splendid lakes, with overhanging woods;—we have no ruined castles, ancient abbeys, or venerable cathedrals;—we occupy no well-known place in the page of history; nor can we point to poets, statesmen, divines, and philosophers, who were here born or made this their chosen habitation. It is true we have ramparts and ditches by which we have for a thousand years been protected. All that time Old Father Thames has besieged us; but in vain. He has environed us, and well nigh overtopped our walls. On one or two occasions he has brought his artillery to bear on a devoted spot; but the breach he has effected has been repaired, and we have expelled the invader."*

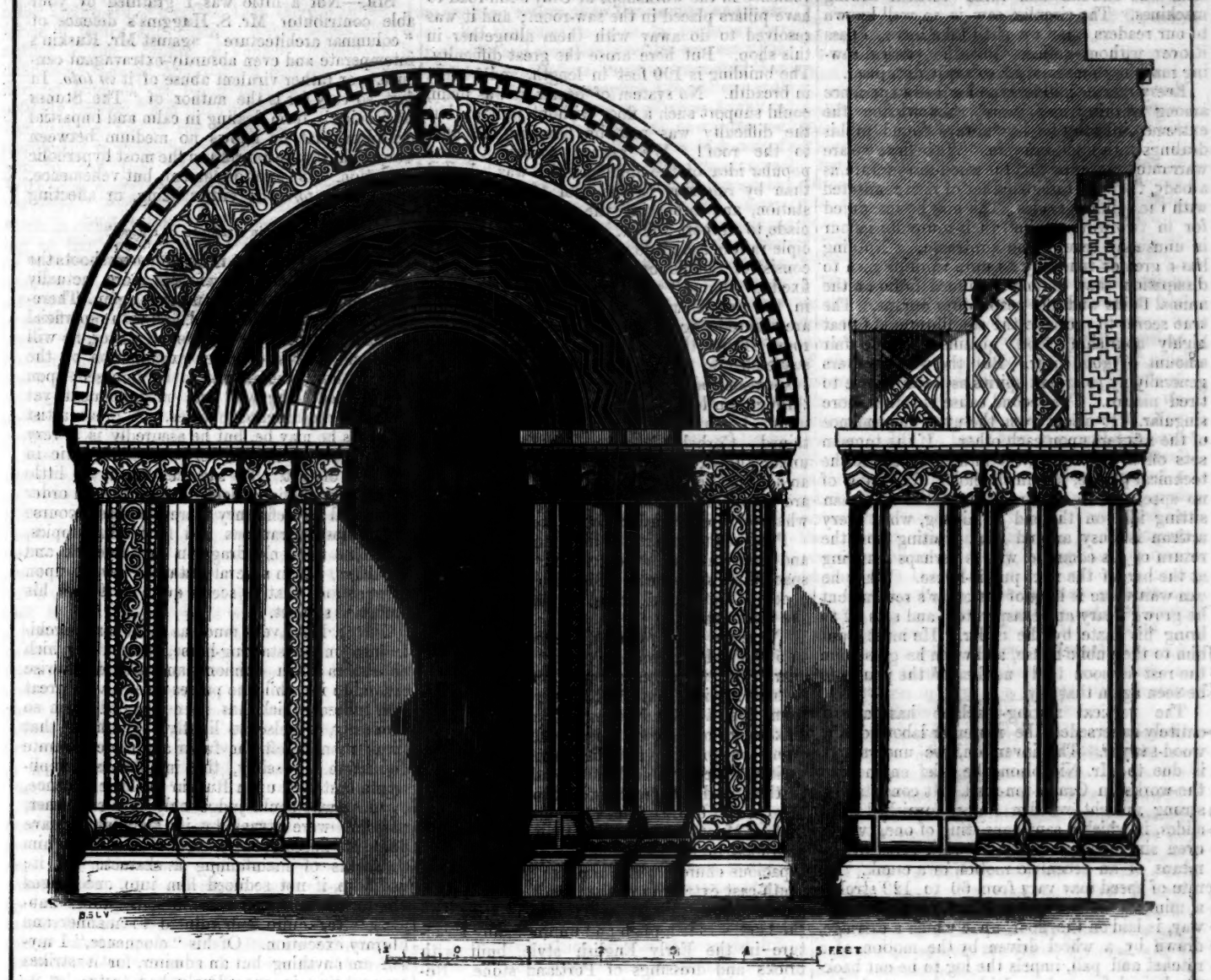
Not bad at all say we: too good, perhaps, for the subject-matter. Our author might have added, that in the days of the English poets from whom we have quoted, the place was probably used as a retreat from the strong arm of the law in regard to the matter of bilking a creditor.

It was in pursuance of the inquiry which has given rise to our notes on the building trades, that we found ourselves, on one of the cold, raw, gusty days that preceded Christmas, voyaging across the River Thames from Greenwich Pier to the Potter's Ferry in the Isle of Dogs. We found nothing, it is true, in the aspect of the country to awaken such fervid eloquence as that we have alluded to; but there were, nevertheless, many objects preserved of very great interest indeed in our practical estimation of things. Extending all along the embankments, from the eastern to the western sides, are to be found the industrious seats of some of the most important metallic and fictile and chemical manufactures indigenous to the metropolis. There is the celebrated engineering establishment of Messrs. Seward and Capell, distinguished for the great extent of its British and foreign contracts, and for the invention of the Cycloidal paddle-wheel. There is the active and crowded engineering and iron ship-building establishment of Messrs. Scott, Russell, and Co. from whence the war-steamers *Grappler* and *Megæra* were launched, and where the practical application of the wave-line theory of the distinguished proprietor—one of the secretaries of the Great Exhibition—is fully carried out. There are the extensive works of Messrs. Morewood and Rodgers, where iron is galvanized; of Mr. Walker, where galvanized iron is turned into houses for Australia; of Swayne and Bovil, where the iron is turned into springs and wheels for railway-carriages. Sir Charles Price and Co. have still their old-established mills, where oil is crushed from seeds, and where spirits of turpentine are distilled from Stockholm Tar. Rope-works are there, where huge cables are made from Riga hemp; and rope-works, where cables are made from iron wire. Blashfield's works have for nearly forty years been known for their manufactures of Roman cement, Portland cement, plaster of Paris, and useful and ornamental works in terra-cotta. There are chemical works, where ammonia is prepared from the bones of the dead dogs; smelting works, where gold and silver are reduced from their ores; disinfecting fluid works, where preparations are made for pouring down cesspools; ironworks, where all the old iron of her Majesty's dock-yards is puddled into new rods and bars; and, finally, there are Messrs. W. Cubitt and Co.'s works, where curious machinery is used for cutting wood; and where bricks, cement, and drain-tiles are manufactured upon a large scale. It is to the last-mentioned works we mean to direct the attention of our readers; but we may state here, before leaving the subject, that this island, so long a tract of barren and unproductive marsh land, and still the greater part of it 7 feet below high-water level, is now in a flourishing condition. It has a population of 5,000 people; a rateable property of 20,000*l.* in value; 530 houses; sixty manufactories; four places of worship; one or two good school-houses; ten excellent public-houses; a doctor (no lawyer!); a house-agent; a gas-work; an omnibus; a post-office; and a station for the Thames police.

It is now some ten or eleven years since Messrs. Cubitt and Co. established their extensive works in the Isle of Dogs. Alderman Cubitt has obtained on a long lease from the Countess of Glengall more than a mile of river frontage, extending from the ferry to the Folly House, as well as a considerable quantity of land adjacent. Upon this property several important improvements have been effected, by means of new roads, drains, and embankments; and there have been erected upon it several extensive establishments,—the port of London mooring wharfs; the patent metallic lava works of Messrs. Orsi and Armani; the rolling-mills of Messrs. Johnstone, and some others. A considerable space fronting the river, and lying opposite Greenwich Hospital, is held by the commissioners of that hospital, and appears intended to be left unoccupied. The chief establishment on the property is of course that of Messrs. Cubitt, which is one of great extent. It covers in all about twenty-five acres of land. It consists of timber-wharfs and saw-mills, with joiners' shops; a cement-factory; a pottery for the manufacture of all kinds of ceramic ware; and several large brickfields. We had the opportunity, through their kindness and under the charge of the principal clerk and engineer, of giving to each of these

* "A Descriptive, Historical, and Statistical Account of Millwall, commonly called the Isle of Dogs." By H. B. Cowper. London: Robert Gladding, Whitechapel-road. 1853.

ANCIENT DOORWAY, KILLESHIN CHURCH, QUEEN'S COUNTY, IRELAND.



departments a considerable share of attention; and we will now ask our readers to accompany us in a hurried run through the works. We begin with the prime mover of all the operations,—with the steam-engine.

The engine-room is decidedly the most attractive department in the whole works. In a spacious well-lighted room with a lofty ceiling, stands a splendid 50-horse engine, by Rennie, with its ponderous beam and connecting-rod, moving as smoothly and with far less noise than the little ornamental engines we see in coffee-shop windows. This engine is constructed on the combined principles of condensing and high-pressure. The boilers underneath are 28 feet long, and 6 feet in diameter; the fire-box of each is 6 feet long and 4 feet wide; and the steam chest with which each of them is provided, measures 3 feet in height and 3 feet in diameter. The cylinders are 32 inches and 16 inches diameter respectively (the first is the condensing and the second the high-pressure cylinder). The beam is 28 feet in length, with a 6-feet stroke, and the fly-wheel is 28 feet in diameter. This engine, we may add, is kept in splendid condition. We do not indeed recollect of ever seeing a steam-engine more scrupulously clean. The cylinders are encased with framed mahogany and slate panels. The base and capital of the slender columns which support the entablature of the frame, the parallel motion, the extremities of the beam and connecting-rod, are polished as bright as steel. Some people entertain the opinion that this is superfluous labour, but we differ from that opinion. A good steam-engine should be treated with all the care and attention which is bestowed on a good horse. It has heavy work to perform, and it requires continual looking after. We never hear the puffing and blowing of a worn-out engine, without calling to mind the puffing and blowing of a broken-down horse; nor the clanking and rattling of loose bearings and bad joints, without reference to an omnibus hack which has come down on its front knees.

Leaving the engine-room, we passed to the principal building in which are the saw-mills and the carpenters' shops. In the basement of this building are situated all the wheels and shafts, and intricate gearing, which give the requisite impulse to the machinery in the saw-mill above. We counted here, in a short space of time, thirty or forty drums on the shafts; and as for the cranks and eccentrics, we marked them in our notes as "beyond computation." The noise in this place was extremely loud, and there were various currents of air created, which made us

glad to ascend to the first-floor. This we found to be the saw-mill. Here were, in full operation, one circular and three vertical sawing machines. The circular saw is so well known to our readers, that we shall take leave to pass it over without notice. But the vertical sawing machines must not be so easily dismissed.

Every master builder who has had experience among working men, must acknowledge the extreme difficulty he has always found in his dealings with wood-sawyers. We believe we are warranted in stating that the wood-sawyers are, as a body, the most dissipated set of men connected with the building trades. This may be accounted for in two ways. First, their muscular labour is unusually severe and protracted. Nothing has a greater tendency to urge working men to dissipation than a long-continued drain on the animal fluids and the respiratory organs. The true secret to preserve the equilibrium is to eat highly nourishing food, qualified with a fair amount of good beer. But the wood-sawyers generally fly to ardent spirits as a restorative to tired nature. The second cause is rather more singular. It arises from the utter dependence of the sawyers upon each other. If the topman sets off at a tangent, the pitman is, to use the technical phrase, left in the hole. We know of no spectacle so disconsolate as that of a man sitting idle on the end of his log, when every artizan is busy around him, waiting for the return of his comrade, who is perhaps lounging at the bar of the next public-house. While he can wait there is hope of the other's return; but he grows weary and exasperated, and sets off to bring his mate by the collar. He must hunt him to the public-house, and when he gets there the rest is soon told: neither of the pair is to be seen again that day.

The vertical sawing-machine has almost entirely superseded the muscular labour of the wood-sawyer. The invention, we understand, is due to Mr. Nicholson, the chief engineer at the works in Gray's-inn-road. It consists of a strong upright wooden frame, furnished with slides, in which a saw, consisting of one, two, or even six blades, is made to work vertically by means of an eccentric motion or a crank. Its rate of speed may vary from 60 to 120 strokes a minute. A horizontal frame, or rather railway, is laid on the floor, upon which a carriage, drawn by a wheel driven by the motion of a ratchet and pall, impels the log to be cut backwards and forwards. It has also attached a machine called a "horse," a sort of carriage for removing the logs; and a man attends to the whole process. The work performed by these saws is very wonderful. For example, a log 24 feet by 18 inches, by 18 inches, is cut into joisting in twenty minutes—a process which would occupy two sawyers a whole day. And in the cutting of deals from battens, there are produced 120 per day, multiplied by any number under ten ($120 \times 10 = 1{,}200$ deals); for it is of no consequence whatever the number of saws affixed to the frame, which pass simultaneously through the log.

The next great improvement we saw in the same apartment was the "planing-machine." This machine consists of a table furnished with a number of wheels, some of which are provided with steel cutters. One is slightly corrugated, and serves to draw the deal into the machine; the second, to preserve it in its place; and the third to give the planing and tonguing to the deal. The planing-irons are three in number, and project from the under surface. Indeed, this machine is in all respects like a large joiner's plane turned upside down, with three irons in place of one, over which the wood is drawn and preserved in its place by friction rollers, in place of the mere pressure of the hand. It is no matter whether the deal is to be planed or tongued, planed on one side or on two sides. It is all the same. The rollers on this machine are ten in number. It disposes of the deals at the rate of 30 feet per minute.

We were next carried up to the uppermost story, which we found to consist of the joiners' shop; where, if we except sundry little arrangements of steam-pipes for warming, cooking, and heating glue, there was nothing remarkable in the mechanical processes. But there was a point in store of another kind. This we found to exist in the building itself, or rather in the roof of the building, from which was suspended the floor. It had been found of great inconvenience in the workshops at Gray's-inn-road to have pillars placed in the saw-room; and it was resolved to do away with them altogether in this shop. But here arose the great difficulty. The building is 100 feet in length, and 50 feet in breadth. No system of beams, it was plain, could support such a floor without pillars; but the difficulty was met by hanging the floor to the roof! We cannot convey a more popular idea of the method which was adopted than by referring to the roof of any railway station, and supposing the transverse girders made to support a floor. In this case the principle rafters are made of great strength. They consist of double beams, each 9 inches by 12, fixed at the wall plats and at their junctions in the groins with cast-iron shoes, and they are secured together by malleable iron tension-rods. From these horizontal tension-rods are suspended, at intervals of 12 feet, 2½-inch iron suspension-rods, the extremities of which pass through girders and are fixed by screws and nuts. Upon these girders the floor is sustained. Corbels of stone project from the walls under the extremity of every girder in case of an accident to the iron rods. But these corbels are purely ornamental. They support no weight whatever, for the girders do not even touch them.

Passing the subjects of brick-making, cement, and earthenware, which would demand more space than we can now afford to give,—we will conclude with a few notes on the condition of the workmen.

There are employed at these works from 300 to 500 hands, according to the season of the year. The wages vary considerably. The labourers receive from 16s. to 18s.; the mechanics from 25s. to 30s. per week, and the brick-makers are paid by the piece. A movement is going on for the establishment of a benefit society, which will include the other tradesmen on the island. A great social improvement may be expected to arise from a munificent act on the part of Mr. Cubitt, who has built in the neighbourhood of the works, at his own expense, a capacious church. The building stands on the south-east extremity of the island, and is rather a conspicuous object both from the river and the land. It is a plain and unpretending structure in the Early English style, built with bricks and dressings of Portland stone. Respecting the church a circular has been issued to the inhabitants, wherein the worthy alderman announces—

"That the building is nearly completed; that he intends placing a clock and a peal of five bells in the tower; that an organ is being built, that the gas will be laid on, and that stoves are provided; and that the church, with an acre of ground, will be vested in the Church Building Commissioners, for the use and benefit of the locality; and that its patronage, with the consent of the authorities of Brasenoze College, the patrons of the living of the parish, and with the sanction of the rector, will be placed in the hands of the diocesan, the Bishop of London."

This noble act deserves to be widely known; it sheds lustre on the ISLE OF DOGS.

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CLOSING OF THE LONDON GRAVEYARDS.—Lord Palmerston's Orders relating to the Metropolitan Graveyards came into operation in several parishes on the 1st of January, 1854,—*one* good beginning for the new year, at all events!—and in connection with the subject, we find that the parish of St. Luke has contracted with the enterprising inventor of the Patent Funeral Carriages for the conveyance of its deceased poor and mourners to the Victoria Park Cemetery; and that St. Olave's Union, Southwark, has also entered into a similar contract. We had occasion recently to inspect some of the new carriages Mr. Shillibeer has constructed with the view of affording still greater facilities for extramural burial than heretofore, and must say they seem admirably adapted in every respect for the purpose intended,—particularly on the score of economy and utility, combined with the most perfect decorum. We sincerely hope that Mr. Shillibeer, who has for years past practically laboured to abolish the difficulties attaching to extramural interments, may, through the operation of recent legislative Acts, yet reap that advantage to which his endeavours so eminently entitle him, but which he has hitherto, we fear, too sparingly enjoyed.—*Bell's Weekly Messenger.*

## THE STYLE OF "THE STONES OF VENICE."

SIR,—Not a little was I gratified by your able contributor Mr. S. Huggins's defence of "columnar architecture" against Mr. Ruskin's intemperate and even absurdly-extravagant censure,—or rather virulent abuse of it *in toto*. In fact, so very far is the author of "The Stones of Venice" from dealing in calm and impartial criticism, that he knows no medium between downright savage hatred and the most hyperbolic laudation. It is not judgment, but vehemence, that is his *forte*, he either being, or affecting to be—

"For ever in a rapture or a rage."

He accordingly almost invariably overshoots the mark he aims at, and, what is more, actually contradicts himself over and over again. Therefore, although he fain would, and with superficial readers may pass for a profound writer, he will not stand the test of sober examination on the part of those who are not to be imposed upon by inflated language and magniloquent yet generally meaningless phrases. A great artist in words he may be, but he assuredly is a very small, or at any rate a very one-sided, critic in matters of art. To say the truth, so little power of æsthetic criticism has he, that in order to conceal his deficiency therein he has recourse to the most extraneous and far-fetched topics, which he not only drags in by the neck and shoulders, but in several instances dwells upon them so long that he seems quite to forget his professed subject.

Nay, it looks very much as if he made architecture only a stalking-horse, masked by which he shoots forth opinions and tirades nowise related to it, while he passes over a very great deal indeed, which has been touched upon so carelessly, or else so lightly by others, that ample room is left for fuller and more accurate discussion. Possibly, the injudicious compliments bestowed upon Ruskin for his eloquence, by those who could judge only of his manner, and who were struck by its singularity, have had the mischievous effect of rendering him ambitious of maintaining a character for it; and have, if not seduced him into, encouraged him in, the mistake of making his proper subject-matter quite subordinate to manner and literary execution. Of his "eloquence," I myself am anything but an admirer, for it strikes me as being in exceedingly bad taste: let it, however, be admitted to be such, and to be so in a very superior degree: what then? Of what value is the eloquence that is employed only in the cause of error,—in the attempt to persuade people into believing that two and two make only three, and that Greek, Roman, and Renaissance are so utterly base and vile,—such mere —— "clouts" and "rotten rags?"

Fortunately, people are now beginning to find out Ruskin's real value as a teacher of architecture and its æsthetics. Not very long ago, he was mauled, and very cleverly, too, in the *Edinburgh Advertiser* (of November 22); and two weeks ago the *Illustrated News* took him to task at some length for the shallowness and one-sidedness of his views in regard to architecture.

While his teaching is mere moonshine, he himself appears at times to be actually moon-struck. What meaning can possibly be extracted from such oracular profundity as the following?—"It is this last cause of the grotesque which we have finally to consider, namely, the error and wildness of the mental impressions, caused by fear operating upon strong powers of imagination, or by the failure of the human faculties to grasp the highest truths." Well, it sounds finely to the ear, and, therefore, might pass for eloquence in a lecture before an auditory, but it looks no better than high-flown nonsense when put into print. Though a hearer may be tickled by it, a reader is apt to feel stupified, and to get a headache in the vain endeavour to get at the sense of it. What has either fear or inability "to grasp the highest truths" to do with the grotesque in architecture, or with any kind of the grotesque at all?

A writer upon art should not affect mysticism, yet it is in mysticism and mystifying that our author's *forte* lies; and it is one of his peculiar fancies to attribute positive and direct moral qualities, both for good and for evil, to an art

which admits only of the expression of æsthetic ones. There is no more of either Paganism or piety in the particular form of a column, or any other architectural member, than there is in the forms of tables and chairs. Nevertheless, the author of the "Stones of Venice" frantically denounces Grecian architecture and the styles derived from it, as being nothing less than actually *impious!* and talks of the "lascivious" Renaissance, and of the "obscene" ignorance manifested in works belonging to what it pleases him to call the "Grotesque Renaissance." With him everything is decidedly "base" or "worthy," "lovely" or "detestable;" and work is either "noble" or "ignoble," according as the workman is rude and undisciplined, or well-trained in his craft,—tutored skill and neatness of execution being, in his opinion, rather a fault than a recommendation, whereas clumsiness, or, as he calls it, "savageness," is what he terms "frank and fearless" work. Our satisfaction ought, it seems, to be derived not so much from the actual work itself, as from perceiving, or else fancying, that the workman must have taken delight in it, however poor his performance may be.

Strange and most fantastic doctrine that; yet not more preposterous than a great many other, or, indeed, most of Ruskin's opinions. Nevertheless, absurd as they are, the vehemence and insolent self-confidence with which they are put forth, calculated to impose upon those who possess either no knowledge of architecture, or but a very superficial knowledge of it, but know that he has gained credit with many as being a powerful writer and a philosophical critic; know also, that his doctrines tend to bring the whole of present architectural practice into contempt, yet do not attempt to gainsay him; consequently, the natural and almost inevitable inference is, that they are wholly unable to refute, not indeed his arguments, because he deals in none,—but his dictatorial and offensively dogmatic assertions.

By no means can I agree with those who profess to think it not worth while to contradict formally such a false teacher and disseminator of error,—one who would fain put us quite out of conceit with all modern architecture, whether it be that of our own or other countries. Architects, and those who have really applied themselves to the study of architecture although not professionally, are in little danger of being misled by the *ignes fatui* of Ruskinism. It is from another quarter that the danger likely to ensue from his teachings, or rather his preachings, is to be apprehended. It is from the public,—that is to say, that class of it who are the employers of architects, and to whose prejudices the latter must defer,—with whose fancies, however unreasonable, they must comply.

Most of his reviewers, the majority of whom, perhaps, never penned a line upon the subject of architecture before, have extolled Ruskin for merits, either real or supposed, merely literary. His doctrine, with its tendency and consequences, has given them no concern. What was it to them if he upset the whole of established architectural teaching and practice? And if those whose immediate interest it was to put down Ruskinism, did not care to oppose it, it was no concern of other people.

Such, I conceive, is the construction likely to be put upon the silence of professional men, more especially of those among them whose position marks them out as called upon to reply to calumnies which they are able to refute, if not, perhaps, with equal eloquence, with far less empty vapouring, silliness, and nonsense.

AN ARCHITECT.

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LAYING PIPE-DRAINS.—Lately visiting some work of this description I am employed on, I found the clerk of the works allowing the junctions of 4-inch with 9-inch pipes to be made, by inserting a length of 6-inch between them, wedging it at the ends with bits of brick, and cementing it over. The traps were being done in brickwork. The reason given me, when I accidentally discovered the workmen in the act, was, "There was difficulty in obtaining traps and junctions of the sizes required." If I had not fortunately discovered this mode of executing the work, of course any failure would be attributed to the pipes. I believe this may serve as a hint as to where the cause of failure may in many cases rest.—R. H. P.

## THE LABOUR QUESTION IN THE NORTH.

SINCE we last alluded to this question, many workers have returned to their senses and their work; but the question is as far perhaps from being finally and completely settled as ever. The most recent report from Preston intimates that no less than 15,720 unemployed hands are still receiving relief to the extent of some 3,000*l.* a week. Not only so, but we are now informed that the dispute has just led to a lock-out of thousands more at Glasgow. The Preston report states that the total amount disbursed by the committees, now exceeds 36,000*l.* Even this of course is not all that has been spent in the north during the late strikes, nor even one half of it; and we do not here refer to loss from idleness, but to hard cash expended in keeping up the struggle for the stereotyped 10 per cent. while even where mills are at work, they are very generally working short time, and under increasing disadvantages. At one of the recent meetings of workmen in Preston, it was stated that the trades of London were resolved to sustain the cotton-spinners for three months more if need were, in their resolve to force the 10 per cent. out of the masters; and Mr. Cowell, the chief leader and delegate there, in wishing his unfortunate and starving clients a "happy new year,"—God save the mark! said he "hoped that before another year had rolled away, this question would be settled, *and their (the delegates') occupation would be gone.*" Would it were gone! The boasting mockery about "another year" must have appalled the hearts of hundreds of his hearers. One speaker at a meeting of this kind, Mr. Kinder Smith, who it appears is president of the delegates, said that, if the employers were determined to persevere in their present course, there was no alternative left to the operatives but that of raising funds to work for themselves. It was true that there was a diversity of opinion upon that subject; but, however, he believed that, if other people could realise mills and mansions of their own in a few years, the operative might do the same for himself, if he had only been as diligent on his own account as he was for others. If capitalists were determined to reduce the wages of the operatives, then they ought to endeavour to place themselves in an independent position, so that they might bid defiance to those who would crush them. It had been said that, with the money which had already been lost by the operatives of Preston in this strike, they might now have had three or four thousand individuals working for themselves, and enjoying the fruits of their own industry. He hoped the operatives of this town would take the hint, and endeavour, by the co-operative principle, to work out their own salvation."

Pity they had not taken the hint in the outset. Our serious opinion is, that it would have been infinitely more desirable, even had every penny been lost in the vain endeavour to establish such a principle, than that the money should have been expended in keeping workmen in idleness, and fostering hopes that even though fulfilled we believe would only vitally injure one of the most important branches of manufacture of which our country can boast.

A penny pamphlet, titled, "Strikes superseded by Self-employment; an Address to the Operatives of Great Britain; with a Plan for the Formation of Industrial Societies, by the present Trade Societies, or a similar Organization," has just been published by "The Association for promoting Industrial and Provident Societies," and may be had at 34, Castle-street East, Oxford-street. We may briefly give some idea of the purpose of this pamphlet by quoting a proposal for the working of the plan suggested:—

"Suppose a union, consisting of 1,000 members, in ten branches, subscribing upon an average 1s. a week each, and suppose 2,000*l.* required in the particular trade to set up an establishment which will give employment to fifty persons.

Then at the end of the first ten months the union could set up one establishment; and, since the subscriptions from the branch where it was set up would continue as repayment of advances, in another ten months it could set up a second, and so on until in less than seventeen years it could give employment to the whole 1,000 members, *without taking into account the number who would find employment from the growth of the different establishments set up*, which it must be observed would not be impeded by the necessity of using their profits for the repayment of the capital, since this repayment would be made out of the subscriptions of the members.

The case put has been purposely one of those in which a large amount of capital per head is required. In trades where so large an amount of capital is not needed, as, for example, in the Tailor's business, where 20*l.* a head might be sufficient, the operation would of course go on much more rapidly.

But the plan must not be looked at as a means of setting up such establishments as have been mentioned with the capital of those who are to work in them only. If well managed, it might be made a means of drawing in capital from many other sources as an investment, as has been the case with building societies."

We are very reluctant to offer any opinion on the co-operative scheme, its past history has been one of so very unsatisfactory a nature: it must here be allowed, however, that the author of the pamphlet referred to has kept this history in view, and aimed at an avoidance of the causes to which he considers that its failure must exclusively be attributed. For our own parts, we fear there is something more than this requisite, namely, mental and moral cultivation, with a clearer manifestation of a spirit of mutual forbearance, moderation, and justice than many of the mill-workers, even in the present instance, display, in tyranizing over their fellows, both by forcing them to quit employments they desired to continue in, and by compelling them, under threats and actual ill-usage, to contribute in supporting strife with employers.

Another pamphlet has been recently issued (Chapman, Strand, publisher), in which a Manufacturer, in form of a letter to the Preston operatives, deals with the question.

In this letter some sound advice is given to the workers now virtually on strike in Lancashire,—virtually on strike, we say, even while locked out; inasmuch as it is their stubborn, and, indeed, under the changing circumstances of trade, absurd persistence in a demand for 10 per cent. of increase, on wages which they no longer possess, that alone leads to their continued lock-out by the masters, who have now entered into a more perfect mutual understanding than ever to resist the undisguised struggle for sheer *mastery* over the trade, for *that is now the real point at issue.*

In the letter referred to, the author declares that the leaders, who are literally *compelling* the unemployed to resist, and the employed to sustain them in resistance, are inevitably disorganizing the trade as well as ruining their fellows,—that a mill is not a republic, to be governed by a mere subservient of the workers,—that nevertheless the interest of the master is tied up with that of his servants,—that the latter have a perfect right to ask what they like for their labour as a commodity, but not to compel their employers to purchase it, or to force other operatives to refrain from disposing of theirs,—that the workers, by their present course, are virtually and really trying to drive the capitalist, their employer, to America or elsewhere abroad; while the capitalist in striving to reduce the prime cost of home labour &c. in manufactures, is essentially doing his best to preserve to his workers that livelihood which foreign capitalists and workers are ever striving to withdraw from both him and them; for that three-fourths to four-fifths of all the cotton they spin or weave is exported in direct competition with the labour of other countries, as well as with the home labour, now extending, of those countries where our exports are sold, and where we can continue to sell them only so long as ours are cheaper,—that if the [illegible] cannot get 10 per cent. more *for* [illegible] he is not likely to be able to get it for his work at all,—that wages will be reduced instead of raised by the present attempt, from the introduction of machinery in every possible shape,—that the working classes cannot be masters till they [illegible] paymasters too, and had better erect mills with their money than support the present strife for the mastery,—that their agitators are leading them the like silly dance that poor mad O'Connor led thousands who were fooled out of not less than 100,000*l.* in spite of all endea-

vours to undeceive them,—that if they want to know how labour gets on as master without capital, cr with capital as servant, let them look to the past in Ireland, now beginning to prosper in circumstances the very reverse,—that the working classes ought to establish their own independence by saving, by education, forethought, and prudence, and by total abstinence from intoxicating drinks more quickly than by anything else,—that then they might compete with other capitalists, by joint-stock mills, but not till then,—that then they will find that even they must buy the labour they employ as cheaply as possible in mere self-protection, and in duty to their workers as well as to themselves,—that as it is they are not only losing both time and money, but ruining themselves and their families, especially their children, physically and morally. Education for themselves and their children, adds the writer, is what the working classes want to render them thoroughly independent.

Lord Palmerston, as Home Secretary, has written a long and feeling letter to the operatives of Preston, in reply to a memorial for the aid of Government in the settlement of their dispute with their employers. While regretting the inability of Government to interfere [and how could they, to any good purpose, however willing?—and, indeed, does not this appeal just show what unsubstantial and impracticable shadows the disputants will grasp at in their very natural but not very enlightened attempts to improve their condition?], and while remarking that he is not sufficiently acquainted with the real state of the question in dispute,—his lordship expresses his great sympathy with the operatives, and his deep regret that such a misunderstanding should exist. The evils arising from extensive and general strikes he justly regards as probably greater than those that would even ensue from really inadequate wages. He fears that an increase of wages may check the masters in their hard race with the similar manufactures of other countries, and so injure the interests of the operatives themselves, by diminishing an apparently flourishing trade, which depends on that very cheapness which moderate wages render practicable, and he suggests the reflection that it is unfortunate this very prosperity of export trade, so dependent on the rate of wages, should have concurred in inducing the operatives to look for a rise in wages, which may thus tend so materially to frustrate its own end.

A letter recently published in the *Times* casts a new light on the real nature of the present struggle; for in it a Preston mill-owner confidently states that the operatives have had an organized design to *strike in detail*, and so compel some masters piecemeal to raise wages, while others are supporting those on strike by help of the wages given to their own workers. And knowing that this same system has been adopted of late in the metropolis, we are fully induced to believe in the probability of the assertion, and deeply regret it, much more on account of the fatal consequences to the operatives themselves than to their employers, to which the successful accomplishment of such a subversion of all order would inevitably lead.

## DISCOVERIES AT TARRAGONA, SPAIN.

This ancient locality has been, for some time past, a source of interesting archæological discoveries. As early as 1851, an Egyptian tomb had been found near the harbour, and shortly after a Roman Mosaic pavement came to light. But it soon appeared, that *below* the stratum containing the Roman ruins, another species of ruined buildings was to be met with, as large stone capitals of a simple, most antique shape came to light, resembling those of the Hercules temple of Kora. In 1852, on making the foundations for a garden wall, another fragment of Egyptian hieroglyphs and characters came to light; and somewhat later, a fragment of a celestial planisphere of the northern heavens was discovered. At the beginning of this year, the Academy of Madrid sent a commission to the spot, under whose direction the following discoveries have been made. First, some fragments of vases of an Etruscan pattern, some with Iberic legends, and some Iberian coins, with letters in that language. This recals to our mind a passage of Strabo (lib. iii.), where he speaks of Iberia as possessing a literature 6,000 years old. At the same time the head and chest of the statue of a god were found. It is made of the stone found about Tarragona, and bears the Egyptian beard: on the chest is a Scarabæus of very high relief, and the lower part of the fragment is covered with hieratic inscriptions. During the same excavation were found a great many fragments of a *stucco*, of superior fineness and polish, which had served for the coating of the walls, also with fine colours and hieratic signs, as well as some friezes of buildings, with Ovolo ornaments of a very antique character. Moreover, the remnants of a floor, made of a mass of great hardness and fine polish, were found. All these fragments were scattered within the area of a building of 8 *mètres* long and 367 *mètres* broad, whose walls had yet the height of nearly 6 feet, and had been coated with the stucco alluded to. It is thought, that these ruins belong to an epoch much anterior to that of Roman civilization. Equally interesting are some considerable remnants of a Cyclopic wall found on the hill near the harbour of Tarragona, which at some places are 7 *mètres* high and 5 *mètres* broad, and *upon which* rest other ruins of an Iberic type.

## NOTES AND INQUIRIES.

### ARCHITECTURAL AND ARTISTICAL.

*Flues.*—By the Chimney-sweeping Act we are forbidden to make a smoke flue less than 14 inches by 9 inches. We all know that there are many occasions and places where a flue 9 inches by 9 inches would be far preferable, and where a circular one 10 inches diameter would be still better; so that we must either build illegally or act contrary to our judgment and experience. I confess that I do not hesitate to adopt the former course. What is the course taken by others? S.

*Sound.*—I shall be glad to be informed of a non-conductor of little weight, and not likely to harbour vermin, that will prevent sound from passing through the partition when a room is divided into two by means of a boarded division, or of one formed by lath and plaster? A.

## RAILWAY MATTERS.

IT is stated that the forthcoming dividend of the Great Northern Company will be at the rate of 4¼ per cent.; and as the returns have now risen above 3 per cent. on the capital, the wages of the *employés* are to be raised 10 per cent.——The coal trade which the company have originated at Grantham is rapidly increasing.——The directors of the Great Northern Railway Company have given orders for the application to all their passenger-trains of an invention to enable the guard in the last break-van to communicate, in cases of danger, with the engine-driver. The apparatus consists of a large hand-wheel fixed on a dead-centre in the break-van, a cord passed under all the carriages of a train by means of swivels, and a cup-bell about a foot in diameter placed near the engine-whistle. By means of this contrivance the guard will be enabled, when required, to attract the attention of the driver by turning the wheel in his van, which will sound the bell near the driver. We hear that this invention is now being adopted generally on the narrow-gauge lines, and that all the Great Northern passenger-trains will be supplied with it by 1st of February.——The bridge at Asnières for the Rouen, Havre, Western, Versailles, and St. Germain Railways, has been reconstructed. This bridge, which is of iron, and has four lines of rails, has been constructed in the same direction as the temporary wooden bridge erected after the destruction in 1848 of the original bridge. The new bridge runs, in fact, under the temporary bridge, the difference of level being 1 mètre 25 centimètres. The necessities of the service, says *Galignani*, only allowed three hours each night for the new work, and the last operation was to gradually bring down the level of the old rails to that of those on the new bridge. 400 men were employed each night.

## PROPOSED RESTORATION OF ULM CATHEDRAL.

AT Ulm, once a free imperial city, now an important frontier town, of the kingdom of Würtemburg, and in the centre of Germany, there is found one of the finest buildings of mediæval architecture, erected at a period when the building art was at its culmination. It is, however, like that at Cologne, unfinished. For the completion of the latter, the sympathies of all Roman Catholic Germany have been invoked with success ever since the discovery of its original design, by the indefatigable Boisséree, gave an impulse to finish it.

Ulm is now a Protestant Church, a worthy rival to the Roman Catholic Cathedral in grandeur, art, and beauty, but like that only partially completed. An appeal has gone forth to enlist Protestant sympathies, and those of reformers of all creeds in its favour, but more especially have the lodges of Freemasons in all countries been invited to aid in perfecting a work, which would be one of the most beautiful works of Gothic architecture, and one of the largest temples of Christian or Pagan worship in the world, as some of its dimensions will testify. It is 416 feet long, 166 broad, inside measure, and 141 feet high, including the thickness of the stone vaulting. The western tower will be 520 feet high, equal to the height of the highest pyramid, and surpassing St. Peter's dome at Rome, by 2 feet; Strasburg spire by 46 feet; St. Stephen's, at Vienna, by 67 feet; Salisbury, in England, by 130 feet. The spire will be the most beautiful specimen of that reticulated work which has been aptly termed petrified lace, so much admired at Antwerp, Strasburg, and Batalha Abbey, in Portugal, of which a curious specimen is given in Müller's "Denkmäler der Deutschen Baukunst."

It is intended to form a committee for the reception of British contributions, for the completion of this great work.

WILLIAM BELL, Ph. Dr.

## NEWS FROM IRELAND.

*Armagh.*—We find that Mr. M'Carthy has been commissioned by the primate to superintend the finishing of the works at the cathedral, which have been suspended for seven years, and they are to be recommenced on next St. Patrick's day. The dimensions in clear are 220 feet by 80 feet, exclusive of transept, which is 120 feet by 30 feet in clear. The plan comprises nave with aisles, choir with aisles, transepts, two towers at west end, and a large tower at crowning of nave and transepts. At present the building is erected to a level of top of aisle-walls without mullions or tracery in windows. The style is Perpendicular, and the architect who designed the original edifice was the late Mr. Duff.

*Dublin.*—The long talked of additions to the Royal Dublin Society house are now likely to be matured, and the plans, we are told, have been prepared at the Office of Public Works, and forwarded to the Treasury for approval. It seems, therefore, that Government is aiding the Society in this matter, for we are aware that plans were prepared more than two years since, but could not be carried out owing to want of funds.——A new line of street is proposed to connect the Broadstone at Upper Dominick-street with the locality of the Four Courts, but we would (in conjunction with the local press) impress upon the corporation the necessity of keeping the present streets in something like a *passable* state before new ones are thought of.

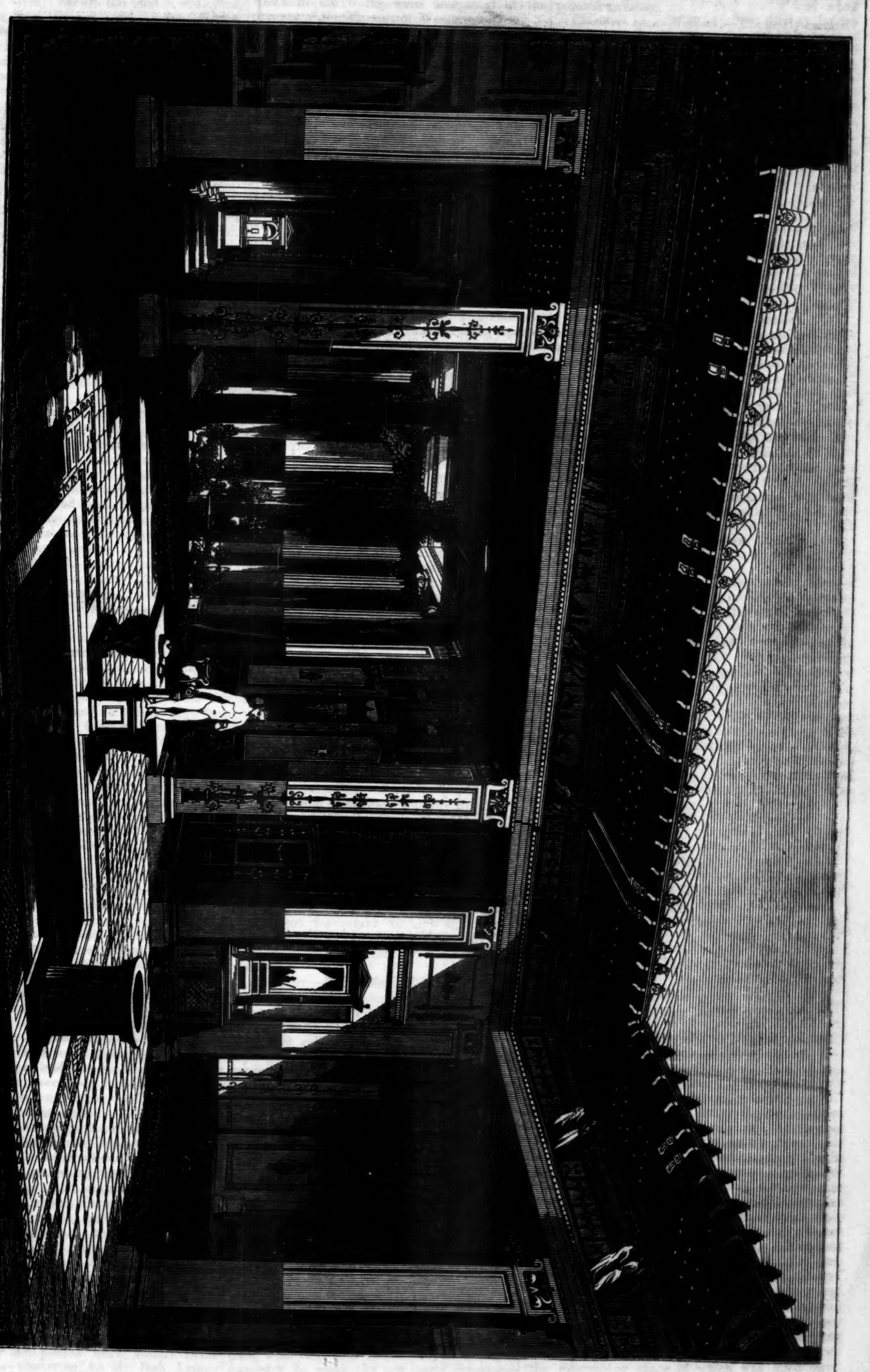
*Naas.*—The Catholic church here is to have a new tower and spire, and the cutting of the stones is proceeding. The total height will be 200 feet.

*Ossory.*—A new R. C. cathedral is proposed, and we are told some important subscriptions have been received.

*Trim.*—The town commissioners here have been bestirring themselves with energy. Gas-works have been built, and the town lighted, to the great satisfaction of the inhabitants.

*Londonderry.*—A new Wesleyan chapel has been erected on the site where the late Dr. Adam Clarke commenced his missions.

[See page 1, *ante*.



THE POMPEIAN COURT, IN THE CRYSTAL PALACE.—MR. M. DIGBY WYATT, ARCHITECT.

[See page 1, *ante*.

## PROVINCIAL NEWS.

*Leyton.*—On 18th ult. the church of Leyton, in Essex, was reopened for Divine service, having been repaired. Instead of the high pews, it has been refitted with open oak seats. A new pulpit and reading-desk have been provided, and a stained-glass window placed over the communion-table.

*Wisbech.*—At Duddington Church, near Stamford, a memorial window has been put up in the eastern end of the chancel, by Mr. Baillie, of London,—a gift of Elizabeth, widow of Mr. Hugh Jackson. It is a triple lancet window, of Early English character. In the centre compartment is the figure of our Saviour, with orb. The upper portion consists chiefly of crocketed canopies, pinnacles, &c.; the lower, of the Pelican, with text. On the right of our Saviour, in the side opening, is the figure of St. Peter, with emblem. The architectural canopy is of the same character as the centre. In the lower part is the cross, with text: the remaining opening is occupied by the figure of St. Paul, with emblem: in the lower part is the anchor, with text.

*Madresfield.*—The new church of St. Mary here, according to the *Worcester Journal*, was consecrated on Thursday week. It has been erected on the site of the old church, and entirely at the expense of the late Earl of Beauchamp, at a cost of 1,900*l.*

*Newport.*—The new parish church of Risca was consecrated on Thursday in week before last. It stands on the site of the old church, and is in the Decorated style of architecture (middle period), and was commenced about eighteen months ago under the superintendence of Messrs. Habershon, of London and Newport, architects. Messrs. James and Hardie, and subsequently Mr. B. Farmer, were the contractors. The building is of Pennant stone, with Bath-stone dressings. The nave and chancel roofs are carved with open tracery. The paving is of Painswick stone, laid in diagonal squares. There are six stained-glass windows, all presented by different promoters of the new building. The rest of the windows throughout the building are of cathedral glass.

*Bangor.*—Preliminary arrangements for the erection of a new church in Bangor have been completed. The Hon. Colonel Pennant, M.P. has given a site, in addition to 500*l.* The church is to contain 600 sittings, one-third free.

*Menai-bridge.*—It is also contemplated to erect a new church at Menai-bridge. This neighbourhood is very populous, especially during summer, and the present little church is insufficient. The Dowager Lady Willoughby de Broke has promised to give 500*l.* towards the new building.

*Eccleston.*—The church here was reopened on Sunday in last week. The improvements just completed consist of widening the church at west end to full width of nave; removal of the octagonal apse, or chancel end squared to full length of original, and a chancel 20 feet by 12 feet added, which is divided from the church by an arch. The iron windows have been removed, and jambs, mullions, and tracery of stone built in their stead. The stone screens separating the transepts from the nave have been removed. A new vestry has been built on the western side of north transept. The tower has been repaired and strengthened. The whole of the old pews have been removed, as also the flooring, and the old cumbrous heating-chest which stood in the centre. The construction of the floors is hollow, and air circulates freely underneath. The drainage has been made more complete, and the outer sides of the foundations have concrete banked up against them, and covered with flags: the lower part of the floors has also been concreted. Various other improvements and alterations, particularized in the *Chester Chronicle*, have been effected. The church is warmed with pipes and apparatus after Sylvester's patent, fixed by Mr. P. Leigh, of Salford. The whole of the works have been executed from the designs and under the personal superintendence of Mr. Edward Hodkinson, of Chester, architect. The contractors were Mr. Dean, of Leftwich, for masonry and flooring; for carpenter and joiners' work, Messrs. Bellis and Williams; plastering, &c. Mr. Josh. Jones; painting and gilding, Mr. John Morris; and plumbing, Mr. John Moore, all of Chester. The whole of the works were completed at the expense of the Marquis of Westminster.

*Great Crosby.*—A new church was consecrated here on Sunday in last week. It is dedicated to St. Luke, and is built on a site to the right of the village, entering from Liverpool. Its ground-plan is cruciform, the church having a nave, transepts, and chancel. It is 108 feet in length from west to east: the width of nave is 40 feet: the transepts are each 28 feet in length: the general height of the walls is 20 feet to the cornice or spring of the roof, and 40 feet high to the apex or ridge. At the western end there is a tower and spire, rising to the height of 120 feet. Interiorly the roofs are lofty, supported upon arched open timber framings, intersecting in the form of a groin at the junction of the transepts with nave and chancel: the material, as well as that of the pew divisions, is of stained pine. The transept windows are tall, with slender mullions and tracery, the intervals filled by stained glass. The chancel, which is octagonal in form, has its ceiling painted in deep ultramarine, studded with golden stars: its windows are filled with stained-glass, the principal ones occupied by designs representing the Annunciation and the Birth of Christ: the side windows are decorated by shields bearing armorial devices. The chancel floor is laid with a tesselated pavement of Minton's encaustic tiles. The pulpit is ornamented by devices of carved white stone, the interstices between filled up by rock-face work of pale blue stone. The font is carved of Bath stone. The stained glass was provided by Messrs. Pilkington, of St. Helens. The edifice is in the Decorated style, and dedicated to St. Luke. It has been built from designs by Messrs. A. and G. Holme, of Liverpool, architects, and is constructed chiefly of Stourton-hill stone, filled up with rock-faced stonework from the quarry of Upholland. The building has been finished at a cost of 3,500*l.* contributed in voluntary subscriptions,

*Birmingham.*—The town-council having remitted to the inhabitants, for their sanction, a resolution authorising an application to Parliament for power to levy a penny rate to maintain in a proper state any land which might be obtained for the purpose of forming public parks, on Friday in last week, the necessary public meeting was held at the town-hall, the mayor in the chair, when it was announced that Lord Calthorpe had offered forty acres of the most valuable of his land near the Bristol road, and close up to the town; that Mr. Alderly (the donor of all the land on which have been established the reformatory institutions near the town) had offered a plot of equally eligible land in another quarter; and that Mr. Joseph Sturge will give a valuable piece of land in Edgbaston for the same good purpose. The application to Parliament for power to levy the rate was sanctioned by the meeting, and the town-clerk was instructed to prosecute the Bill in Parliament.

*Stockport.*—Two stained-glass windows have been put up in the chancel of the parish church, one over the priest's door, given by Mr. Thomas Hill of Portwood; the other, near the nave on the south side, the gift of Mrs. Robinson, of Spring Bank. In the former are two scenes representing respectively the captive Israelites by the waters of Babylon, and our Lord predicting the destruction of the temple at Jerusalem. The latter has also two compartments, in one of which is depicted our Lord teaching his disciples, while the other represents St. Thomas putting his hand to the Saviour's side. A mural monument of white marble has also been erected in the south aisle.

*Mottram.*—At a recent meeting of subscribers to the restoration of the parish church, as reported in the *Manchester Courier*, it was stated that 1,800*l.* and upwards had been realized. The senior warden then explained that the works required to restore the edifice would involve taking down the whole of the clerestory, and the roof from the side aisles, leaving only the outer walls, the tower, and the chancel standing, and rebuilding on a similar plan, with only such alterations as would be necessary to make the new parts correspond with the original architecture of the church. Mr. E. H. Shellard, of Manchester, was appointed architect.

*Chorlton-upon-Medlock.*—The newly-erected church of St. Stephen, in the district of St. Saviour's, was consecrated on Friday in last week. The site is Milton-street, Stockport-road. The church is in the decorated Gothic style, and consists of a nave, two transepts, with a tower at the corner of the nave, facing Milton-street and Everton-road. On the tower is also a spire with ornamental pinnacles, with flying buttresses at the angles of the tower and the base of the spire. The tower is 56 feet high. The length of nave is 80 feet 7 inches by 41 feet. The two transepts from each end of the wall are 78 feet 9 inches, and are each 26 feet wide. At each end of transept is a large ornamental window, and the nave is lighted by small windows of a similar description. The main entrance is through the tower, and there is another entrance from Milton-street. The nave is one complete roof, and at the tower end of it there is a large ornamental window. All the seats are open, and are to be stained and varnished in imitation of dark oak, as also the gallery fronts and timbers of the roofs. Around the church fronting Milton-street is a low stone wall. The edifice is intended to accommodate 1,019 persons, 6-feet sittings, 369 free. The parsonage, which adjoins the church, is in the same style of architecture. Both are built of Yorkshire stone. The architect was Mr. E. H. Shellard, and the builder Mr. Mark Foggett. The contract for the church was 3,360*l.* The total cost of church and parsonage will be upwards of 5,810*l.*: of this sum 300*l.* are still unsubscribed.

## RUINS.

In gazing on the ruins of some noble edifice, one might almost imagine its architect had even bestowed some thought on the appearance it would make when fallen into such a condition, at the time it issued from his hands in its original symmetry and completeness. When so much regard was necessary to be paid to the means for obtaining great convenience with beauty, it is not probable that it entered into his head to conceive what would be the effect of the structure when it should become a ruin. If such an idea occurred it would show him to have been a benefactor to posterity, as well as an enthusiast in the work produced for his own generation to admire. It is certain, however, that the finest edifices make the grandest ruins. Time, which gives its venerable aspect to all things, batters and shapes many of them into beauty. But much of the emotion such relics excite depends on that architectural character which years are unable wholly to efface,—character arising out of the excellent qualities of the structure, such as the permanent nature of the materials employed, the colour and tints of the stone or marble, natural or acquired, the taste in the finishing and care of the details, and the skill displayed in their construction. Other causes are also contributory to this effect, namely, their situation and accompaniments, whether of a pastoral, wild, savage, lovely, romantic, or tremendous kind.

There are some fine old parish churches in England which have little yielded to the effects of time, a fact owing not so much to excellence of material but to the skilful manner of employing it,—to the perfection attained by the workmen in the management of it, through careful practice; the walls of many of these edifices consisting of a mixture of squared flints inserted amidst a framework of freestone, producing, it is true, with the help of good cement, a firm and durable fabric; yet the use of this rugged material was suggested by considerations of economy, as good stone could only be got from distant quarries.* In some parts of the country one sees buildings of a ragged, mouldering, ruinous appearance, owing to the quality of the red sandstone of which they are constructed, although these may not always be of very ancient date. Others, as in castles anciently strongholds of great military importance, exhibit, in the stage of demolition to which storms and violence have reduced them, thick double walls, the intervening space of which was filled up

* Pugin's "Examples of Gothic Architecture," vol. 1. p. 44.

with stones and hot cement, the whole of which was concreted into one solid mass of such strength as to have rendered them as fortresses nearly impregnable.

It is refreshing to the spirits to come to some ruins, not of great consequence in an architectural sense, not startling by being placed near ordinary houses, but of small extent yet of singular beauty, making a very altar in the sequestered green spot in which they are situated; some small rustic chapel, sculptured fountain, grotto, or gateway,—objects not unfrequent in this and other countries.

No less the far-famed temples of Greece; those, for instance, at Olympia, Sunium, Ægina, are in lonely scenes secluded from the commonplace things of the world—solitary sanctuaries, where, in such silence and solitude,—their proper accompaniments—they exert their full effect on the mind, when they can be carefully observed and fairly appreciated. Majestic ruins! what wonder so many travel far and endure much to contemplate you? Well might Gibbon conceive the idea of writing his great history whilst meditating among the ruins of the Capitol! Well might Shelley* lead his poet to wander among

> "The awful ruins of the days of old;
> Athens and Tyre, and Balbec, and the waste
> Where stood Jerusalem, the fallen towers
> Of Babylon, the eternal pyramids,
> Memphis and Thebes, and whatsoe'er of strange
> Sculptur'd on alabaster obelisk,
> Or jasper tomb, or mutilated sphinx,
> Dark Ethiopia on her desert hills
> Conceals."

When it is considered that the nature of the country surrounding some of these celebrated ruins rendered it capable of producing little else but pasture for cattle, and offered no convenience for, sometimes put difficulties in the way of, commercial industry, we shall admire the energy and refinement of the inhabitants who, at great cost and labour, must have executed works of this kind. A modern traveller† justly remarks that such results can only be accounted for by what Horace said of the Romans—

> "Privatus illis census erat brevis,
> Commune magnum."

The ruins scattered over Italy and her provinces show what a people could effect when actuated together by this liberal spirit; what the contributions of a few communities could do: many of those works that now raise astonishment—that have been over and over again surveyed, measured, and booked—were erected at private expense; and almost all—for example, the theatres, baths, and aqueducts—were intended for public benefit.

Still, the greatest number, as well as the most considerable of the Roman edifices were raised by the emperors who possessed so unbounded a command both of men and money.‡ Augustus, Agrippa and the Antonines left behind them monuments which were the glory of the Eternal City, the ruins of which have attracted thither countless visitors, and added immensely to the revenues of Government.

"Under the reign of the Cæsars (writes Gibbon), the proper Asia alone contained 500 populous cities, enriched with all the gifts of nature, and adorned with all the refinements of art. Eleven cities of Asia had once disputed the honour of dedicating a temple to Tiberius, and their respective merits were examined by the senate. Four of them were immediately rejected as unequal to the burden; and among these was Laodicea, whose splendour is still displayed in its ruins. Laodicea collected a very considerable revenue from its flocks of sheep, celebrated for the fineness of their wool, and had received, a little before the contest, a legacy of above 400,000*l.* by the testament of a generous citizen. If such was the poverty of Laodicea, what must have been the wealth of those cities whose claim appeared preferable, and particularly of Pergamus, of Smyrna, and of Ephesus, who so long disputed with each other the titular primacy of Asia. The capitals of Syria and Egypt held a still superior rank in the empire: Antioch and Alexandria looked down with disdain on a crowd of dependent cities, and yielded with reluctance to the majesty of Rome itself."

* "Alastor, or the Spirit of Solitude."
† Bowen's "Mount Athos, Thessaly, and Epirus"
‡ Gibbon's "Decline and Fall," ch. ii.

Eustace, in his "Classical Tour through Italy," says truly,—"Ruins, till the revival of taste, in the fifteenth century, were considered as quarries furnishing materials to those who chose to employ them; and unfortunately many did employ them, with little or no regard to their ancient fame, their costly workmanship, or their fair proportions."

We know the excellent construction of many fabrics, classical and mediæval, now shattered or fallen in ruins by time, ravage, fire, earthquake, or wars, enabled them to endure for ages, on which account they have a strong claim on our admiration; and if ever similar disasters happen to our works, we should take care that their merits will ensure a commendation equal to that which we bestow on the works of our ancestors.

F. LUSH.

## LODGING-HOUSES FOR THE LABOURING CLASSES.

NEITHER philanthropy nor commercial enterprise has as yet succeeded in establishing for the labouring poor that description of HOME which is most needed by the classes necessarily located in the heart of London. There are lodging-houses for single men at 2s. a week, with reading-rooms and kitchens in common; others for families at rates varying from 3s. to 6s. a week, having also washhouses; others for single women, and various nightly refuges. These are all good and beneficent as relates to the comparatively small numbers benefited thereby; but the great want of the community, the crying demand, is not for *single* model houses, nor for apartments in barrack-like buildings, but for *clean, wholesome*, and *cheap* abodes, wrought up out of the old material at hand, viz. the filthy, ill-drained, comfortless tenements which pervade all quarters of the metropolis. Benevolence has essayed to benefit the thoroughly destitute by establishing refuges, some free, others at a small charge; and the result on a very small scale is good. Enterprise has attempted in a few instances a self-supporting and paying system of lodging-house. In some cases it has succeeded: in others there has been a return of only one-half per cent. All are good, and tend to demonstrate the tone of the public mind, which is irresistibly drawn to the fact that needless suffering is imposed upon our poorer brethren through the remissness of some body or bodies, whether they be ministerial, municipal, or corporate.

That there is no comfort for any human being, or for any class of creatures, unless the HOME is comfortable, must be a self-evident proposition: how to effect the attainment of that comfort seems to be the study of our existing generation, that is, how to secure the greatest good and the greatest amount of happiness for the greatest number.

Possibly the late fatal access of disease may have spurred on slothful spirits by the reflection, that danger may arise from the propinquity of contagion; and there is no quarter of town or city, however affluent, which has not its undrained, ill-ventilated, and filthy Alsatia of poverty. The movement has begun, and if it has produced but a small amount of advantage to the *million* of poor, yet it has established the fact, that an incalculable amount of good can be done by commercial enterprise in the outlay of money as an investment on the improvement of houses for the labouring classes. Some of the houses already erected, being wholly new foundations, pay as much as 20 per cent.; and on the simple calculation of ordinary building profits, this must needs be the case, even although single rooms of good dimensions (say 12 feet square, or an area of the same contents) were let each so low as 1s. 3d. per chamber,—the fact being that the average rental of single rooms at present let out to families, in the bye parts of the town and city, is 2s. 6d. or 6*l.* 10s. per annum for every apartment, and that, too, in houses, the paint, the drains, the whitewashing, nay, the very window-glass whereof are left wholly neglected by the landlords.

In Whitecross-street there is a better order of houses, where attention is duly paid to the entirety, if not to the neatness of premises; and the agent who collects the rents receives, for every room of *nineteen houses*, the weekly rent of 3s.!! There's a return for the lowest description of house property. And why is this? Simply because the lodgers must be near their occupation: they are forced to pay this enormous exaction, because none are to be had so vicinal, and none cheaper of the same quality.

Now, the average rental of good eight or six-roomed houses in the suburbs—such as Portland, Camden, and Kentish Towns, Camberwell, Kennington, &c. &c. is 5*l.* per chamber, or 30*l.* for a six-roomed, or 40*l.* for an eight-roomed house, with *kitchen and washhouse*. These houses, too, are finished with some pretensions to taste; and, though aristocrats may smile at it, even to luxury. Comforts and luxury are comparative: a poor man can luxuriate in a clean, warm room, without excessive ornamentation: a clean kitchen is a luxury: a washhouse and drying-room or ground are exceeding luxuries,—luxuries the rich cannot appreciate, who have never sat an evening amidst the reek of a week's washing, extended on lines throughout the one sole living-room.

If, therefore, a small mansion or villa can be erected and let at the rate of 5*l.* per chamber, why should not houses of plainer finish, adapted to the wants of simpler folks, be erected and let at the rate even of 3*l.* a chamber?

3*l.* a year would little exceed 1s. per week, but suites of rooms constructed with recesses for beds (to separate the sexes, or children from parents) might be erected even at a much smaller cost; and such buildings might also have (if on a medium scale) common kitchen and washhouse, with all the accessories essential to the health and comfort of families. An able and practised architect assured the writer, that the cost of each suite of chambers, including a good-sized sitting-room, two sleeping-compartments, together with pantry, water laid on every floor, and the other accessories, need not exceed 80*l.*! Take the interest then of 80*l.* the outlay, at 5 per cent.: it is 4*l.*: add thereto for ground-rent, or usufruct of purchase, 2*l.*; and if you like, 2*l.* more, or 25 per cent. profit, and you have this convenient family abode for 8*l.* a year, or at a fraction under 3s. 1d. a week.

To secure, however, the most prompt and effective remedy, the alteration and adaptation of *old houses* should be generally carried out; not that the middlemen of St. Giles's or Clerkenwell could be prevailed on to let their tenures at moderate rents: no, they make too good a thing of it; but there are numerous houses and ranges which might be rented by companies or solvent individuals at a reasonable rate, and which, after alteration, repairs, and adaptation, would leave to speculators a very large profit, securing at the same time to the labouring poor commodious and cheap houses: this is the way, in this respect, to secure the greatest good to the greatest number: it is what the condition and circumstance of the age requires, and any one who enters into the calculation may be confident of the results.

It cannot be denied that there is an objection very prevalent against lodging-houses which on a large scale look like barracks. The very poor (and the poorest are those who must dress well and keep up an appearance, such as clerks, shopmen, ay, and even curates), think they must occupy a house in terrace or row, so as to have a designation and address; but this feeling will soon give place to that prudence and commonsense which led our countrymen in Scotland to subdivide their houses in flats. The French have long been habituated to occupy large mansions in community. They first established the omnibus (a species of conveyance that we at first ridiculed, but afterwards fell in with). The Italian noble often lives in his attic, *sub*lets his palazzo, *piano nobile* and all, keeping the cellars only for the retail of wines, the yield of his vineyards. On the comforts of home depend the *amenities* of life: these are ever present with us: they cement the domestic affections, humanize the mind, elevate the morals, and shed a bright influence, which perishes not with life, but descends to our children, even in poverty. The *asperities* of home need no commentary beyond the daily reports of police-offices and criminal courts. Repelled by irremediable discomfort, the parent lodgers too often seek in the gin-palace what is denied at home; desertion and neglect become habitual; health fails; and

their offspring, the early object of tender cares and solicitudes, are driven on a course of vice crime, and retribution.

Here, then, is scope for the exercise of true philanthropy. If this is a Christian country, the pious or the Church ought to accelerate the movement: if we are only merchants, shopkeepers, and speculators, the adventurous will find a profit as well as "luxury in doing good."

QUONDAM.

## NOTES ON IRON.

*The Iron Trade.*—The quarterly-meeting masters, at their preliminary meeting, resolved *not* to accede to the strenuous efforts that were being made to make a new start in prices; at same time, however, accepting the already declared rise of 20s. a ton as an acknowledged advance. It is satisfactory to observe that the attempt of speculators to force up prices still farther than the point already gained is now being very generally discountenanced, experience doubtless teaching fair traders to what end association with such characters inevitably leads. They seem at length to begin to see more clearly that high prices and permanent prosperity, so far from being synonymous or co-ordinate terms, are, in this trade at least, even almost incompatible. An article of such universal distribution and utility as iron can only form the basis of a generally prosperous trade so long as *moderation* prevails in prices current, all attempts to force up the cost of the raw material without awaiting the legitimate pressure of demand being certain only to embarrass and check the manufacturing and various other outlets of the article into general use, and so to re-act injuriously on the cause of the disturbance of the equilibrium itself. This very disturbance was already felt, in consequence of the late declaration of a rise of 20s. a ton, as a check to the returning prosperity of the manufacturing branches of the trade; and doubtless this fact, combined with fear of a like forcing up of wages, is what has led to the discountenancing of any further tampering of the same sort at the present moment. There is a manifest design, however, to try shortly a repetition of the late manœuvre, whereby the quarterly masters have already been jogged on to that upward movement which accords so well with their inclinations though not with their substantial and permanent interests; and if again successful, we should not wonder to see this new dodge normally established between every two series of quarterly meetings, till its mischievous influence be fully recognised. The quarterly-meeting masters are but too likely to regard it as a convenient feeler, which, at each successive quarter, they may either act on or disclaim, as convenience may seem to suit. If quarterly-meeting dicta have been denounced, as they *have* already been, by the *Times* and other authorities, no less than by ourselves, as essentially pernicious to the trade in their tendencies, much more is such an adjunct as this likely to be so, if it really be systematically established with an exclusive design to urge prices upwards. The prices now quoted in the trade interest are, 10*l.* for bars of best brands, and 9*l.* 10s. for secondary articles; hot-blast mine pigs, 4*l.* 15s.; cold-blast, 5*l.* 5s. to 5*l.* 10s. and hot-blast cinder-pigs, 4*l.* to 4*l.* 5s.

*Extent of the Iron Manufacture.*—In a lecture on the manufacture of iron, delivered at the Dudley Mechanics' Institution, by Mr. S. H. Blackwell, F.G.S. the lecturer stated the present annual production of iron in this kingdom amounted to the almost incredible quantity of 3,000,000 tons, and that of this a great proportion was manufactured in South Staffordshire. Some manufacturers, he added, now produced upwards of 200 tons a week.

*Corrugated Iron for Steam Boilers.*—Mr. Montgomery, of New York, has recently introduced a novel species of boiler, formed of corrugated iron, which is said to possess many advantages over those formed of flat rolled plates, and to be exciting much attention among those interested. It is stated that it more than doubles the strength, takes only one-half the space, is 30 per cent. less in cost, and will prove a great preventive of explosions, as in the rolling all blisters and flaws are brought to light which cannot be seen in flat rolled iron. It presents one-third more heating surface to the furnace than the present boiler, and the engineers connected with the naval department are said strongly to recommend these corrugated boilers.

*Plate Rolling.*—In 1847 (says the *Sunderland Herald*), when Sir Robert Stephenson designed the Britannia-bridge, he wished to procure for the bottom of that structure the largest plates of iron which the skill of this country could afford. He employed all the leading makers of plates in the Staffordshire district, where that particular branch of the iron trade was then most successfully conducted, and they put forth their best efforts to meet the views of an engineer whose undertakings promised to open out a new and wide field for the consumption of plate-iron. The largest plates required were 12 feet long, 30 inches wide, half an inch thick, having a superficial area of 30 feet, and weighing under 5½ cwt. After the orders had been some months on hand, Sir Robert's agent wrote a note, saying that, with one exception, the makers were not prepared to supply such plates, and so difficult was the rolling and shearing found to be, with the machinery then in use, that he entertained great fears of at least considerable delay. Five years have not been idly spent by the iron trade. The *Newcastle Journal* lately announced the formation at the Derwent Ironworks of plates which far excel everything hitherto done in this way. Mr. Forster, the manager, it states, has this week achieved the most extraordinary feat in iron-making ever yet performed, having rolled four magnificent beam plates, 17 feet 3 inches long, 5 feet broad, and 1¼ inch thick, and each plate weighing no less than 1 ton 15 cwts. We have had occasion previously to notice many wonderful productions from these works, but these former wonders, though astonishing and unparalleled, such as plates of a ton up to 25 cwts. each, are now thrown into the shade by this last effort. Plates of such extraordinary size and weight cannot be produced at any other iron manufactory in the kingdom, and it reflects much credit upon the spirited proprietors of the above extensive works, and their able manager, at being able to accomplish such achievements as the above. The *Gateshead Observer* remarks on these plates:—"Wonders never cease. We have on several occasions noticed the extraordinary productions of the Derwent Iron Works, at Consett—to wit, a rail which quite eclipsed the sea serpent, and plates of a ton weight, and of vast breadth and length, for which a prize medal was awarded by the Commissioners of the Great Exhibition, and other things equally extraordinary. But now Mr. Forster, the manager at these works, has outshone himself, and produced what really seems incredible—four wrought-iron plates, 1¼ inch thick, 5 feet broad, and no less than 17 feet 3 inches long! Think of such plates, as long as a good comfortable room, and weighing no less than 1 ton 15 cwt. each! How men can lift such things at all, to say nothing of doing so when they are at an intense white heat, is what we cannot comprehend. And how they are sheared, too! Think of a pair of neat scissors quietly clipping the edges of such plates, 1¼ inch thick! If this does not 'whip creation,' we do not know what does. These large monsters have gone to Glasgow, to astonish the natives there, and are to be used as engine-beams, being much lighter and stronger than cast-iron ones."

## CHARGE OF NEGLIGENCE AGAINST A SURVEYOR.

KEELING *v.* TAUNTON.—This was an action at the Marylebone County Court, before Mr. Adolphus, to recover 10*l.* 10s. under circumstances of some interest to surveyors, and parties engaging their services. The plaintiff stated that he was a surveyor and house agent, and engaged by the defendant, a gentleman of property, to make a report of a house he wished to purchase at 38, Craven-hill-park. For the report he charged the sum of 3*l.* 3s. and also a further sum of 2*l.* 2s. for a specification. About a week after this he received an amended specification from the defendant's solicitor; and on the following morning the defendant called, and informed him that he had made an arrangement with Bowles, the builder and former owner of the house, that he, the plaintiff, was to have the superintendence of the work of the house until it was finished, and asked what the charge for such additional services would be. He informed the defendant that it would be an additional five guineas, and he remarked upon this—"Oh, it will not be so dear, after all." He was engaged in general superintendence from June to September, and was constantly at the house. There were many alterations made, and there was a dispute as to the size of the conservatory. He had no complaints about the work proceeding slowly. He told the defendant it was utterly impossible to finish the house in less than six weeks, and he said he would take it out of Bowles's hands, and put it into witness's. After he had applied for payment, the defendant sent him a letter, objecting to the payment of the extra 5*l.* 5s. and offering to submit the charge to a third person, and that he who had it decided in his favour should hand over the 5*l.* 5s. to St. Mary's Hospital. Of course he could not think of doing business upon such extraordinary terms, and refused.

Mr. Taunton said he did not object to the first two items—namely, for the report and specification—but he certainly did consider it as an duty incumbent upon him to dispute the item for superintendence. He had entrusted the general supervision to Mr. Keeling, and he was warranted in saying that gentleman had acted far from diligently, or like an active surveyor, and put him to great inconvenience and expense. He was obliged to have the drains trapped: the cisterns were not properly done, and he had since to have them releaded, and other work performed, which it was the plaintiff's duty to have seen to. At this moment the workmen were still in the house.

By Mr. Dod (plaintiff's solicitor).—Mr. Keeling was only employed to superintend Bowles, the builder, who had repaired and made good the defects. Witness discovered the drains were wrong.

Mr. Dod, at some length, urged that the defendant was not warranted in making such sweeping charges against a professional man without some evidence in corroboration. As to the offer to pay the amount into St. Mary's Hospital, it was preposterous. His client had not done himself justice by only charging five guineas. The services rendered would scarcely requite a labourer. The specification set out the alteration and repairs Bowles was to carry out, and his client had acted throughout in a diligent way.

The Judge said he thought Mr. Keeling should have seen to the drains and some other things the defendant swore he had not done. He also thought that the plaintiff had done considerably more than was in the specification. As Mr. Taunton had suffered some inconvenience through Mr. Keeling, he thought the justice of the case would be met by deducting 2*l.* 2s. from the claim. Verdict for 8*l.* 8s. and costs.

## ASSESSMENT OF BRICK-FIELDS, FULHAM.

AT a Court of Petty Sessions, recently held at the Holland Arms, Kensington, for the Western Division of Middlesex, an appeal was heard against the assessment by the parish officers of Fulham, of certain brick-fields in the occupation of the appellants, Messrs. Hughes and Co.

It appeared from the statement of the appellants, that they had taken a large estate in Fulham, containing a quantity of brick-earth, under a covenant to lay out 10,000*l.* in covering it with buildings within a limited period. At the time of the assessment they had four stools at work in the fields, and they had manufactured about 2,000,000 of bricks, of which a small part had been sold, and the remainder employed in the buildings on the estate. The appellants contended that it was unfair to rate the brick-fields higher than the market garden-ground adjoining, since the bricks manufactured were almost wholly employed on the estate, and would ultimately greatly increase its rateable value. They had brick-fields at Hackney, for which they were assessed at a surface-rent only of about 5*l.* per acre, and they should have no objection that their assessment in Fulham should remain at the same rate as when their land was used as market garden-ground, namely, 7*l.* an acre.

On behalf of the parish, Mr. Maclure, their surveyor, stated that the occupation of land as a brick-field was what is called a "consuming occupation." It was customary for the tenant, not only to pay a surface-rent for the field, but also a royalty, which was in the nature of a rent, upon the number of bricks manufactured, as a compensation to the landlord for the consumption of the soil. This royalty varied in different localities. The number of stools erected on the field was *primâ-facie* evidence of the quantity of bricks intended to be made; and as in the course of a season as many as 600,000 were generally made off one stool, Mr. Maclure considered that the valuation of the appellants' field was not too high. The particulars of that valuation were as follows:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Upon the 4 acres of land occupied as a brick-field, a surface rental of 6*l.* per acre..... | £24 |
| A royalty of 2s. per 1,000 on 2,400,000 bricks, the estimated quantity made from the appellants' four stools ..... | 240 |
| Gross estimated rental..... | £264 |
| Statutable deductions for tithes, repairs, tenants, and other taxes ..... | 54 |
| Net rateable value ..... | £210 |

Mr. Maclure submitted that the brickmakers' occupation was the subject of assessment, and whether it was made beneficial to him by the sale of the bricks, or by employing them himself in building, was immaterial to the parish.

The Bench decided that the royalty was the proper criterion of value, as it was, in fact, but another term for rent. They, however, thought, in this instance, as the appellants were likely to benefit the parish so largely, they ought to receive some consideration. Upon this suggestion, it was ultimately agreed by the parish officers to fix the assessment at 150*l.*

In the same parish, the Sewage Manure Company appealed against the assessment of their premises at Stanley-bridge, at 145*l.* Dr. Fuller, the chairman, stated, that hitherto the company had derived no benefit from their occupation, as the speculation had

failed, but they had no objection to be assessed for the present at 100*l.* although that amount was double their former assessment. Upon the company undertaking to submit to an assessment at the full value, whenever the scheme should become prosperous, the parish officers, at the suggestion of the Bench, agreed to the reduction.

## THE RESERVOIR AT GREAT MALVERN.

OBSERVING in your number of the 31st ultimo, a letter headed "Construction of a Reservoir at Great Malvern!"—"Law of Fluids,"—and quoting an answer said to have been given by the "clerk of the works," I beg to state that I am the superintendent under the engineer, Mr. James Simpson, and I most positively deny ever having expressed myself in such a manner.

The quotation, as it stands in your impression, is simply ridiculous; and I am only astonished that any sensible man having the least pretension to theoretical knowledge should have thought it worth while to disprove such an absurd statement, which I have reason to believe arose from a conversation with the foreman bricklayer, who has been so wearied during the last summer by the inquiries of visitors and others that he frequently answered *ironically*, and stated anything to get rid of them for the moment.

The simple facts of the case are these:—The reservoir is to be covered over, to preserve the water in the same *purity* and *coolness* as it springs from the hills: the covering is to be of brick arches, which the inner walls are intended to support. Such walls being thus necessitated, advantage is taken of them to act as counterforts, or rather as struts, in supporting the external walls *against the pressure of the earth without*, and not for *lessening the pressure of the water within*, as your correspondent was informed. By this arrangement a great saving has been effected in the thickness of the *outer* walls, which, instead of being 18 inches thick, as they are, must otherwise have been at least 5 feet, to act as retaining walls, to prevent their collapsing or overturning, when the reservoir was emptied of water.

If your correspondent will trouble himself to make a comparative estimate, as I have, of the cost of various ways of constructing covered reservoirs, with all due attention to their requirements and stability, he will find the mode adopted is more economical than the usual kind of roofing. R. ANDERSON.

## Miscellanea.

BATH GRAPHIC SOCIETY.—The assembly-rooms at Bath were occupied on Tuesday, in last week, by the Graphic Society, who held their first *conversazione* for the season there. The attendance was very numerous, as were also the contributions of pictures and other objects of art and *vertu*, many of which had to be excluded, from want of space. Amongst the works exhibited was a stained glass window, about to be put up in Newton St. Loe Church, which is being rebuilt under the superintendence of Mr. C. E. Davis, who exhibited the window. Two console brackets of Sevrès china, which the *Bath Chronicle* thinks notable from the extreme delicacy of their decorations, were exhibited by Mr. Rainey; specimens of the raw material of encaustic tiles by Mr. Minton, and of glass by Mr. Powell.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT AT SOUTHAMPTON.—A destructive accident happened in the Southampton Docks, on 3rd instant, when the great lifting shears on the north-east quay of the tidal basin, erected about seven years since by Messrs. Seaward and Capel, of London, suddenly fell into the dock, carrying with them a length of nearly 140 feet of the solid masonry of the walls and foundations, weighing probably some thousands of tons. The shears are it is said of the largest kind ever made, 80 feet high, with legs, each 15 tons in weight, and capable of lifting 80 tons dead weight at one time. They had been tested to a lift of 50 tons, and frequently lifted from 15 to 40 tons. The cost of the accident has been estimated by the dock company's engineer, Mr. Alfred Giles, at about £10,000.

LIVERPOOL ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.—At the usual fortnightly meeting of the Architectural Society in week before last, Mr. Verelst, the president, in the chair, a paper was read by Mr. Alfred Rimmer, upon "Farms and Farm-buildings." At the conclusion of the paper, a discussion on it took place, principally with reference to the stall-feeding of cattle. At the following meeting the first matter of discussion was a letter on the subject of brickmaking, received by Mr. Verelst, as chairman of the society, from Mr. C. B. Yarrow, of London. Mr. Yarrow draws a very unfavourable comparison between brickmaking in Liverpool and London; the bricks made in the former place being, he says, the worst he ever saw. Afterwards Mr. F. Howard read the paper for the evening, "On the Second and Third Volumes of 'The Stones of Venice,'" which he criticised with severity.

THE MOUSTACHE AND BEARD MOVEMENT.—Sense and reason are likely to prevail in this movement, and there will probably be an end in a few years to the absurd practice of scraping the virile token of nature from the chin—a practice which can only rank with other absurd ones of a like order, such as the head-shaving and the pigtails of the Chinese—ay, and of a nation nearer home, who once wore periwigs in preference to nature's own provision, and adorned their posterior aspects with the plaited pigtail itself. The newspaper press, "to a man," with the *Times* now at the head of them, quoting from our columns, are against the pig-scraping process. The potent aid of the *Times* is an auspicious token of victory. The provincial press, too, are doing the cause good service. The *Sheffield Times*, while introducing to its readers the earnest advocacy, by correspondents, of the moustache among the steel-grinders, and in which honourable mention is made of our efforts, remarks, that "our hope is in our young men;" and that "those who have never shaved have simply to remain neutral, and with them the adoption of the beard would be a gradual process, and would soon cease to be singular." The editor also remarks that the difficulty is to induce the grinders to *take* any *trouble* for the diminution of the evil which the fan is designed to abate; but if they would go one step further, and *not* be *at the trouble* of shaving their faces at all, the moustache would filter the air they breathe, and exclude those fine particles of dust which destroy their respiratory organs ere they have lived out half their days." This is precisely the ground on which we, in the outset, based our anticipation of the success of this movement among the masons. The *Wolverhampton Chronicle* also allows an able correspondent to urge the subject in its columns; and in the *Dublin Advocate*, a lady brings before its readers our humble efforts, and gives her hearty concurrence to the change which will convert the smooth chin into an exclusive privilege of her own fair sex. The editor advises ten or a dozen persons here and there to *countenance* each other in simultaneous cultivation of the beard. The *Montrose Review* says that a number of the most intelligent young men of Montrose have given in their adhesion by allowing the moustache to sustain its adhesion to the human face divine. So is it in all quarters; and we incline to prophecy, with Rowland, that ere long the beard and moustache will be generally worn again, as of old, by our countrymen.

SUFFOLK INSTITUTE OF ARCHÆOLOGY AND NATURAL HISTORY.—The Quarterly General Meeting of members and friends was held on Thursday in last week, at the Bury Athenæum. The Rev. Lord Arthur Hervey, president, took the chair. On the table were a number of objects of antiquity and natural history; and on the walls were copies and tracings made by Mr. Bacon, of Bury, and Mr. E. Walden, of the mural paintings discovered on the walls of the nave of Bardwell Church during the recent restoration of that edifice; and explanatory papers on the subject were read, from the Rev. A. P. Dunlap, rector of Bardwell, and the Rev. J. W. Burgon, Fellow of Oriel college, Oxford. A paper on the Court Leet of the borough of Clare, communicated by Mr. J. B. Armstead, local secretary, was also read, and some presentations were made.

COVENTRY EXCHANGE AND MUSIC-HALL COMPETITION.—We are informed that twenty-three designs were submitted to the committee, in reply to their advertisement, and that from these they have selected one by Mr. Murray, resident in the town. The second premium has been adjudged to Messrs. Bidlake and Lovatt. According to a correspondent, the elevation is Italian in style, three stories in height, and occupying the full frontage allowed (viz. about 125 feet). The frontage is mainly appropriated for shops and public offices, such as savings' bank, telegraph, and railway-parcels, &c. except in the centre, where a columnar recessed portico forms the principal entrance to the building, and communicates directly with a hexagonal vestibule, leading again to the general corridors, lobbies, and staircases, which are plentifully distributed throughout. The vestibule just mentioned communicates with the hall or exchange-room, a lofty apartment of about 110 feet by 55 on the ground-floor, lighted partly from the sides, and partly from above. There is a slight recess at one end for the orchestral platform, which is contrived so that a portion will slide back when not in use; and the opposite, or audience end, is semicircular, of the whole width of the room, and divided in height into tiers of galleries, to which is affixed a row of private boxes.

INTEMPERANCE IN SCOTLAND.—Messrs. Baird, of Gartsherrie, in the West of Scotland, the extensive iron-masters, are said to have agreed to pay 1d. a ton extra, on the quantity of iron produced at furnaces wrought on total abstinence principles. The experiment is reported to have been attended with satisfactory results to all concerned.

THE STOKE-UPON-TRENT ATHENÆUM CONVERSAZIONE.—The annual conversazione of this institution took place on Tuesday in last week at the new Town-hall, Stoke, in the large room occupied by the School of Design, lent for the purpose by the committee. About 600 persons were present. Alderman Copeland had lent for exhibition some fine animal-paintings, by Herring, including "Mazeppa on the Wild Horse." Mr. S. C. Hall also had allowed to be shown a large number of water-colour copies of some of the finest productions of the ancient and modern schools of painting contained in the private galleries of the Queen at Osborne, Windsor Castle, and Buckingham Palace, which her Majesty had permitted him to select, and have copied, with a view to their publication as engravings. These, together with a choice display of the local manufactures from the establishments of Messrs. Minton, Alderman Copeland, and Messrs. Adams, were exhibited in the magistrates' room. The meeting, previous to the concert, which constituted an element in the evening's enjoyment, was addressed by Mr. E. Buller, who presided. Mr. Battam then delivered a dissertation on the usefulness and advantages of literary institutions; after which Mr. S. C. Hall spoke, and was followed by other gentlemen with brief addresses, and the evening's entertainment was concluded with music.

OPENING OF THE FIRST FREEMASONS' HALL IN CHINA.—On 13th October last, at Hong-Kong, the brethren of the Zetland Lodge, No. 768, gave a banquet on the occasion of opening the Freemasons' Hall there, being the first temple specially dedicated to Masonry in China, so far as seems to be known. This building was projected by the late Brother S. Rawson, P.G.M. who laid the foundation-stone with due Masonic honours, on 1st February last, and since then, by the exertions of Brother Cleverley, architect, the building has been "tiled," and brought to a perfect state, by the W. M. Brother Mercer, D.P.G.M. as mason. The necessary work having been "well and duly performed," the craft retired from Jachin to Boaz,—from labour to refreshment, and spent the evening, till far beyond "high noon," in "harmonizing in the light," while all "without" were "in the dark."

MR. J. REMINGTON, inventor of the Remington Bridge and many other clever contrivances, died recently in Galveston, Texas. Mr. Remington for some time resided in the neighbourhood of Stafford. He erected one of his bridges over the Trent, at Ingestre, on Earl Talbot's estate.

DEVON AND CORNWALL ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS' SOCIETY.—A meeting of the members of this society was held a few days since at the Great Western Docks. Among other business brought forward by Mr. Damant, the hon. secretary, was a proposal for holding the future meetings of the society at the Plymouth Athenæum, and of establishing a library for the society there, until it should be in a position to procure premises of its own. This arrangement was agreed upon by the meeting.

THE INSURANCE TAX.—It has always appeared to me that Government should assist rather than discourage (as it certainly does by its 3s. per 100*l.* tax) the insurance of house property, and "Quondam's" letter in your paper of the 24th ult. on the subject induces me to trouble you with the following suggestion. If the Chancellor of the Exchequer cannot afford to give up the tax altogether, why not change its form, and levy a tax of 1s. or less per 100*l.* on all house property, whether insured or not? I believe a tax of 6d. would increase the revenue, and lead many more, if not all persons, to insure. If this were to take place, the insurance offices would be enabled to diminish their premiums; and probably the tax and premium, in time, would not amount to more than 1s. 6d. per 100*l.* Could this be accomplished, the Government would confer a great benefit on the country at large, without impoverishing itself at all; and we should no longer hear of ruin and distress occasioned by calamitous fires.—R. B.

THE SEWERAGE OF DUBLIN.—The *Northern Whig* states that Mr. Dargan and Sir M. Barrington are making arrangements for the purification of the Dublin sewege, by Mr. Bardwell's patent filtering process.

NORWICH CHAPEL COMPETITION.—We are informed that the premium offered by advertisement in our pages for the best design for a new dissenting chapel to be erected at Norwich has been awarded to Mr. Edwin Pearce.

INJURIES FROM CONTRACTORS' NEGLECT.—In the Court of Exchequer an action was recently brought by a tailor, who had been severely injured by falling into a hole about 4 feet deep, in a court beneath the Blackwall Railway, opened by the contractor, Mr. Myers, while engaged with some works connected with the railway. An arrangement was come to in court, whereby a verdict for 350*l.* was taken for the plaintiff.